

**STATE OF GEORGIA
HENRY COUNTY
CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE**

RESOLUTION NO. R20-1163

**Opposing Premature Re-Opening of the State in Light of the Worldwide
Covid-19 Pandemic**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a world health emergency and a pandemic;

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the President of the United States declared a National Public Health Emergency on Friday March 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State Emergency in Georgia on March 14, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, Mayor Anthony S. Ford declared a State of Emergency for the City of Stockbridge;

WHEREAS, on March 24, the Mayor and Council adopted Resolution Number 20-1159 which resolution mandated the closure of certain businesses and called on all residents of the City of Stockbridge to practice social distancing and consider sheltering in their homes;

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, the Governor of the State of Georgia issued an executive order imposing a statewide shelter in place mandate;

WHEREAS, the Governor's April 2, 2020 executive order also suspended all emergency orders and resolutions of the City of Stockbridge;

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2020, the President of the United States issued a three-phase set of guidelines prepared by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) entitled "Opening Up America Again," which established certain guidelines for the states to follow prior to reopening for business;

WHEREAS, the CDC and FEMA have warned that even a cautious and phased approach to reopening the economy "will entail a significant risk of resurgence of the virus;"

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2020, the Governor issued an additional executive order which order allows all businesses to be open;

WHEREAS, the Governor's April 20, 2020 executive order did not even heed the guidelines established by the CDC and FEMA;

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases said in response to the Governor's decision, "that could be setting us back. It certainly isn't going to be helpful;"

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, even the President of the United States said he "totally disagrees" with the Governor's decision;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 infections continue to increase in the State of Georgia;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 imposes a significantly higher threat of mortality to certain minority populations including the African-American community which makes up a significant portion of the population of the City of Stockbridge;

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Mayor and Council of the City of Stockbridge, the Governor's order is premature and unfounded based on the medical and scientific advice available;

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Mayor and Council, the Governor's April 20, 2020 executive order should be rescinded;

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Mayor and Council, until adequate testing, contract tracing and other measures are in place as advised by the CDC and the Georgia Department of Public Health, residents of the City of Stockbridge should continue to shelter in place and follow social distancing guidelines and that only essential business functions should be maintained; and

WHEREAS, after due consideration, the City of Stockbridge does hereby find and declare that a State of Emergency due to COVID-19 continues to exist, in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the City and its citizens, and in order to manage the pending emergency created by the COVID-19 the measures described below must be implemented:

THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1. Opposition to the Executive Order. The City of Stockbridge voices its opposition to the Governor's April 20, 2020 Executive Order and encourages residents of the City of Stockbridge and the State of Georgia and non-essential businesses to continue to shelter in place and follow the CDC's and the Georgia Department of Public Health's recommended social distancing guidelines and safety protocols (including the wearing of masks when outside of the home).

SECTION 2. Public Record. This document shall be maintained as a public record by the City Clerk and shall be accessible to the public during all normal business hours of the City of Stockbridge. A copy of this Resolution shall be delivered to members of the Stockbridge legislative delegation, and made available for distribution to the public and the press.

SECTION 3. Authorization of Execution. The Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem is hereby authorized to sign all documents necessary to effectuate this Resolution.


SECTION 4. Attestation. The City Clerk is authorized to execute, attest to, and seal any documents which may be necessary to effectuate this Resolution, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Stockbridge as provided in the City Charter.


SO RESOLVED this 23rd day of April, 2020.


ANTHONY S. FORD, Mayor

ATTEST:


(SEAL)
VANESSA HOLIDAY, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


MICHAEL WILLIAMS, City Attorney